(c) and (d) cost of coal production would very from country to country due to various factors including geological nature of deposits, wage structure and technological advancement. The average cost of coal production in coal India Limited was Rs. 502.44 per tonne in 1998-99.

Import of Coal

†2212. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a constant increase in import of good quality of coal during the past few years;

(b) if so, name of the quality and category together with quantity of the coal imported in the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

(c) the reasons for constant increase in the quantity of import of such coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) Since import of coal is placed under Open General Licence (OGL), imports are being resorted to by the actual consumers depending on their requirements.

Import of coal is not monitored by the Department of Coal. However details of coking and non-coking coal imported into the country during the years 1996-97 to 1998-99 are given below:

(Data Provisional)
(in million tonnes)

Year	Coking	Nok-Coking	Total
1996-97	9.78	4.53	14.31
1997-98	10.65	6.56	17.21
1998-99	9.64	6.00	15.64

(c) There is a gap between demand and indigenous production of coking and superior grade coal used by steel plants for metallurgical purposes. Steel plants are importing coal (i) to bridge the gap between the requirement and indigenous availability of coking coal of required quality and (ii) to improve the quality of overall blend for technical reasons for improving performance of blast furnace.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Some thermal power stations located near the coastal regions and cement plants are also importing non-coking coal because the present level of customs duty and railway freight structure makes such imports cost competitive per unit of calorific value on certain locations.

Tax paid by CIL

2213. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the income-tax dividend and tax on dividend paid by Coal India Limited and other coal companies under CIL during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 year-wise;

(b) the profit/loss registered by each of these companies during the corresponding period;

(c) whether tax payments by CIL are on the basis of adjustment for losses, if any, for the group companies;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken by Government to rectify this and the details thereof; and

(f) the responses thereon from Ministry of Finance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) The income tax, dividend and tax on dividend paid by Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

Companies	1996-97			1997-98			1998-99		
	Income Tax	Divi-dend	Tax on Divi-dend	Income Tax	Divi-dend	Tax on Divi-dend	Income Tax	Divi-dend	Tax on Divi-dend
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
NCL	341.26	162.63	16.26	269.72	195.85	119.66*	272.71	212.83	23.41
WCL	184.22	142.2	14.22	227.00	153.66	15.36	214.00	103.98	11.41